

Weekly Disease Surveillance Report

2021 Reporting Week 39: September 26 — October 2



This weekly report is produced by the DOH-Okaloosa Epidemiology Section to provide situational awareness to community partners. Data is subject to change as additional information is gathered.

COVID-19 Meets Influenza (Flu) Season

As Okaloosa experiences decreasing trends in COVID-19, it is important to be aware of and prepare for the beginning of flu season while our COVID-19 community risk level remains HIGH. Providers are encouraged to review CDC's [Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Resources for Health Professionals](#) in order to be prepared for counseling on coadministration of COVID-19 and flu vaccines, patient education, and the 2021-22 flu vaccine composition. Influenza-like illness (ILI) activity in Okaloosa has been trending downward from a peak in Week 34 towards normal activity, just in time for the official start of the flu reporting season (Week 40).

As of October 4, local hospitals reported that they were 85.2% full, of which 15.1% of those beds are occupied by COVID-19 patients. Of all ICU hospital beds in Okaloosa, 15.6% were occupied by COVID-19 patients. The unvaccinated population continues to be the most heavily impacted. **Over 83% of persons hospitalized with COVID-19 are unvaccinated.** The vaccine is highly effective at preventing severe disease and death. The total number of Okaloosa residents aged 12 and older that are fully-vaccinated continues to rise! The actual number of fully vaccinated in Okaloosa is 102,004 (57.1%)!

Get VACCINATED today! It is SAFE. It WORKS!

Guidance on the newly approved **Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shot** eligibility is available on the CDC website. [Moderately and severely immunosuppressed people](#) who completed either the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine series are recommended to get a **third dose** of the mRNA vaccine from the same manufacturer. An additional dose is not authorized for the J&J vaccine.

FREE [Monoclonal Antibody Treatments](#) are available in Okaloosa for use in adult and pediatric patients (12 and older) who have either been diagnosed or exposed to someone with COVID-19 and are at high risk for progression to severe illness, hospitalization, or death from COVID-19. Please follow the link for all locations.

Contact Us:

**Florida Department of Health
in Okaloosa County**

Epidemiology Section

**24/7 Disease Reporting:
850-833-9065**

Confidential Fax:

850-833-7577

okaloosaepi@flhealth.gov

COVID-19 Snapshot

| Week 39 Review | | Difference from Wk38 |
|---|-------|----------------------|
| Resident Case Count | 331 | -200 |
| Resident Case Count per 100K Population | 160.3 | -97.0 |
| Average Resident Cases per Day | 47.3 | -28.6 |
| Percent Positivity | 9.7% | -2.6% |

Data Source: Merlin Database

The Florida Department of Health (FDOH) provides the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) with county COVID-19 data, including deaths.

Please visit the [COVID-19 Community Profile Report](#) webpage to obtain death data by downloading the most recent excel file and locating Okaloosa on the 'Counties' tab.

For questions related to COVID-19 death data, please contact the FDOH Office of Communications at 850-245-4111 or NewsMedia@flhealth.gov.

| Week 39 Community Risk Level | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| COVID-19 Community Risk Level | New Cases per 100K Population per Week | % Positivity per Week |
| HIGH | 160.3 | 9.7% |
| PREVIOUS WEEK RISK LEVEL: HIGH | | |
| Low | <10 | <5% |
| Moderate | 10-49 | 5-7.9% |
| Substantial | 50-99 | 8-9.9% |
| High | >100 | >10% |

Community risk level is the color of the higher risk level for the two indicators.

Data Source : CDC [Community Indicators at the County Level](#)



COVID-19 Fully
Vaccinated =
No Quarantine

COVID-19 in Okaloosa County

Week 39: September 26—October 2

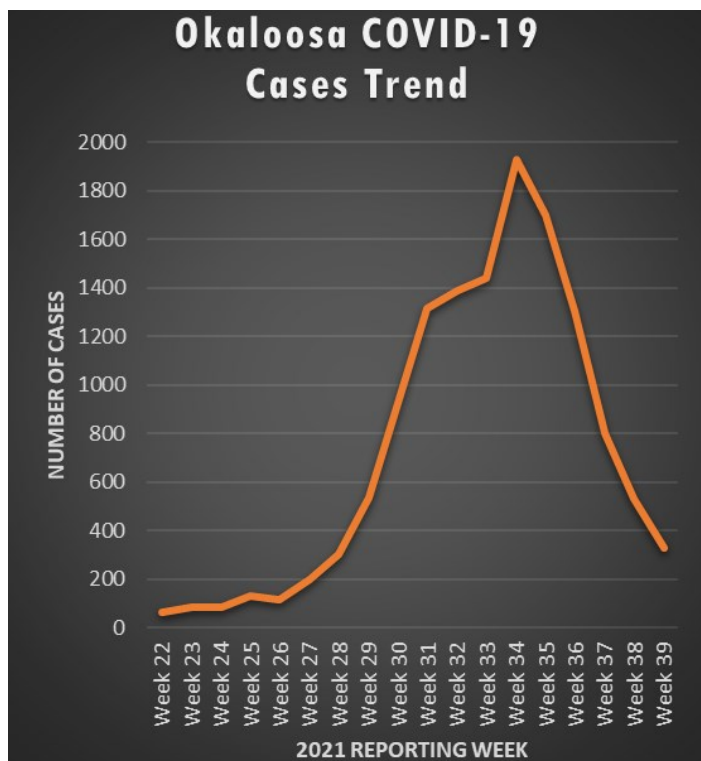


Figure 1: Trend of total COVID-19 cases by week. Data source: Merlin Database

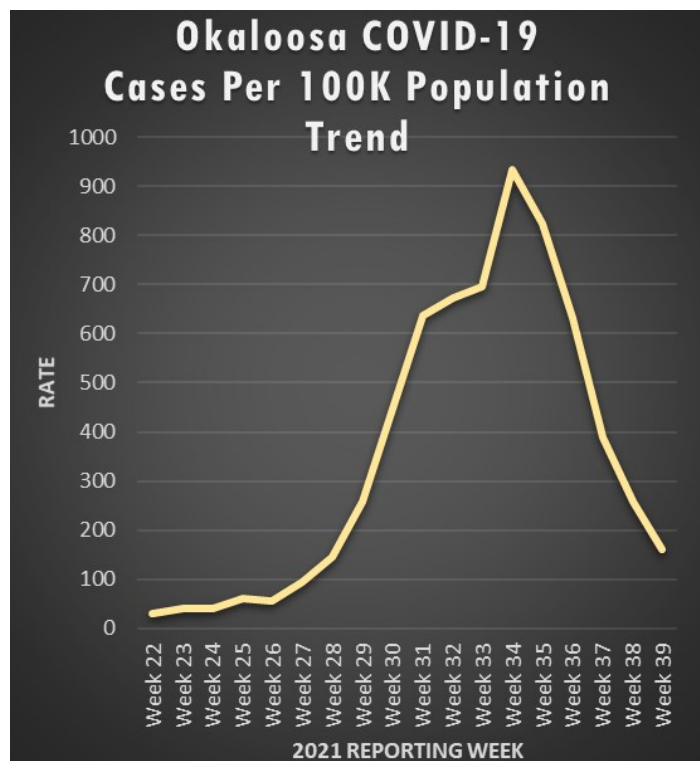


Figure 2: Trend of COVID-19 case rates by week. Data source: Merlin Database

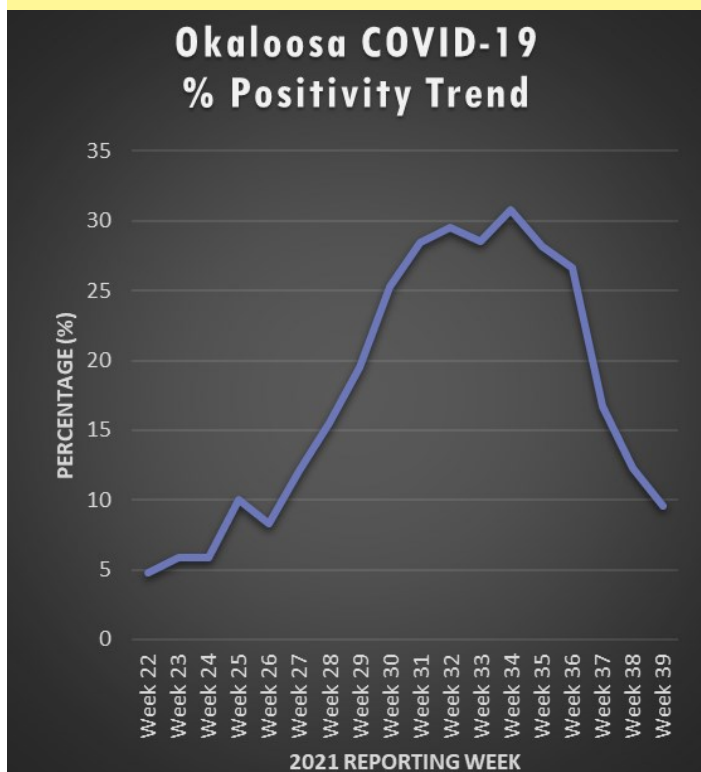


Figure 3: Trend of 7-day moving percent positivity of COVID-19 cases by week. Data source: Merlin Database

| COVID-19 Cases by Age Group | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|----------------|-------------------------|
| Age Group | Okaloosa Resident Cases since 03/01/21 through Week 39 | % by Age Group | Difference from Week 38 |
| 0-11 | 1961 | 13.0% | +50 |
| 12-14 | 691 | 4.6% | +15 |
| 15-24 | 2341 | 15.5% | +44 |
| 25-44 | 5171 | 34.3% | +96 |
| 45-64 | 3441 | 22.8% | +89 |
| 65-74 | 913 | 6.0% | +25 |
| 75-84 | 375 | 2.5% | +8 |
| 85+ | 197 | 1.3% | +4 |
| Unknown | 6 | 0.0% | 0 |
| Total | 15096 | 100% | +331 |

Data Source: Merlin Database



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COVID-19 in Okaloosa County

Week 39: September 26 - October 2

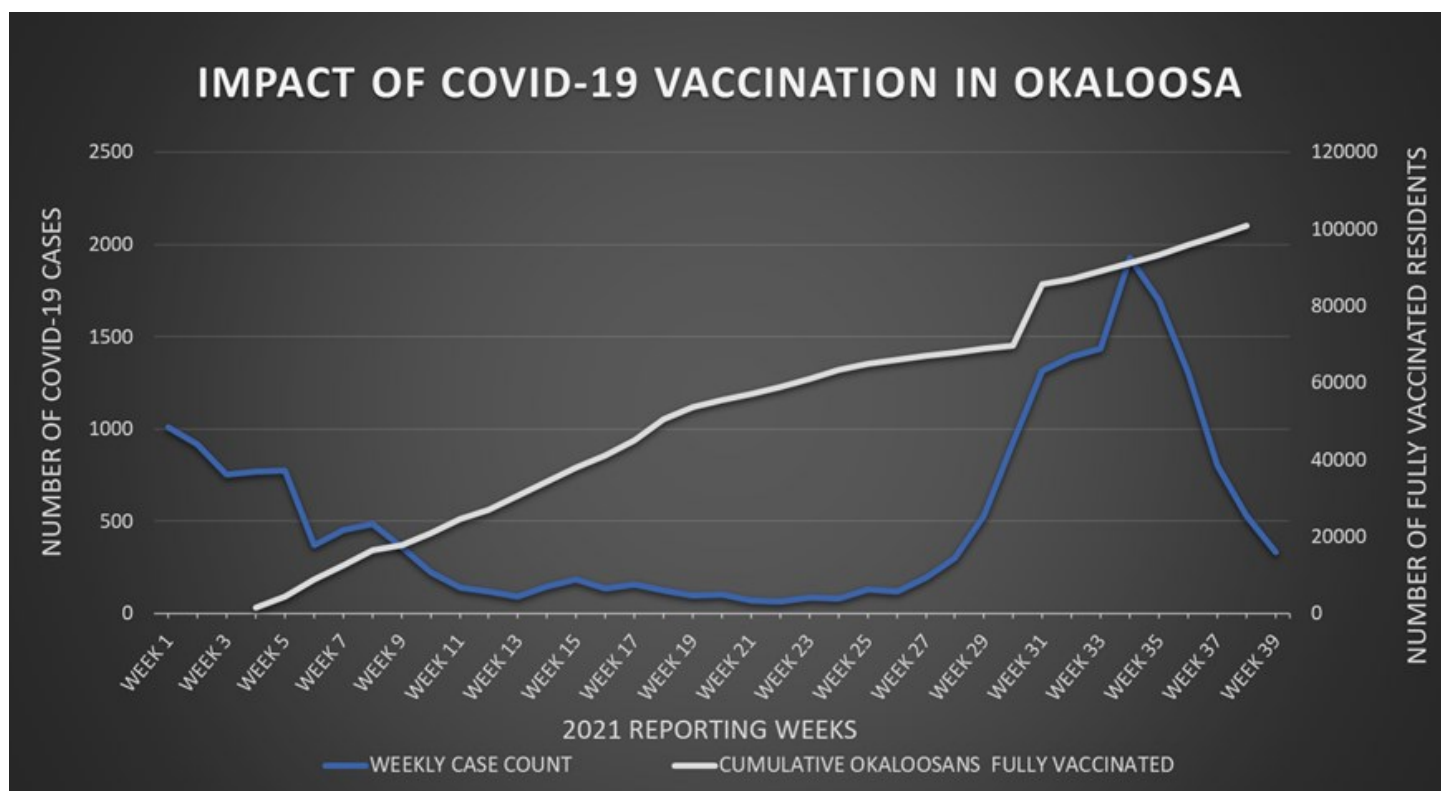


Figure 4: Cumulative number of fully vaccinated Okaloosa residents as compared to COVID-19 cases per week. Data reported through previous Sunday.
Data Source: Merlin & CDC [COVID Data Tracker](#)

VACCINATION DATA RESOURCE

The CDC COVID Data Tracker presents county level vaccination data that includes vaccinations from:

- FL SHOTS, including FL Department of Health, retail pharmacies, and long-term care facilities,
- Dialysis centers participating in the Federal Dialysis Center Program,
- Health Resources and Services Administration partner sites, and
- Federal entities such as Department of Defense, Veterans Health Administration, Indian Health Service and Bureau of Prisons.

Percentage of
Breakthrough
Infection in
Fully-Vaccinated
Individuals:

1.26%

Data Source: Merlin & CDC [COVID Data Tracker](#)

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

| Fully-Vaccinated Groups | OKALOOSA | US |
|--|----------|-------|
| % of Population \geq 12 Years of Age | 57.1% | 65.4% |
| % of Population \geq 18 Years of Age | 59.5% | 67.2% |
| % of Population \geq 65 Years of Age | 87.3% | 83.6% |

Data reported through previous Sunday. Data Source: CDC [COVID Data Tracker](#)



Influenza-Like Illness

Week 39: September 26 - October 2

Influenza-like Illness (ILI) is defined as fever greater than or equal to 100°F AND cough and/or sore throat in the absence of another known cause.

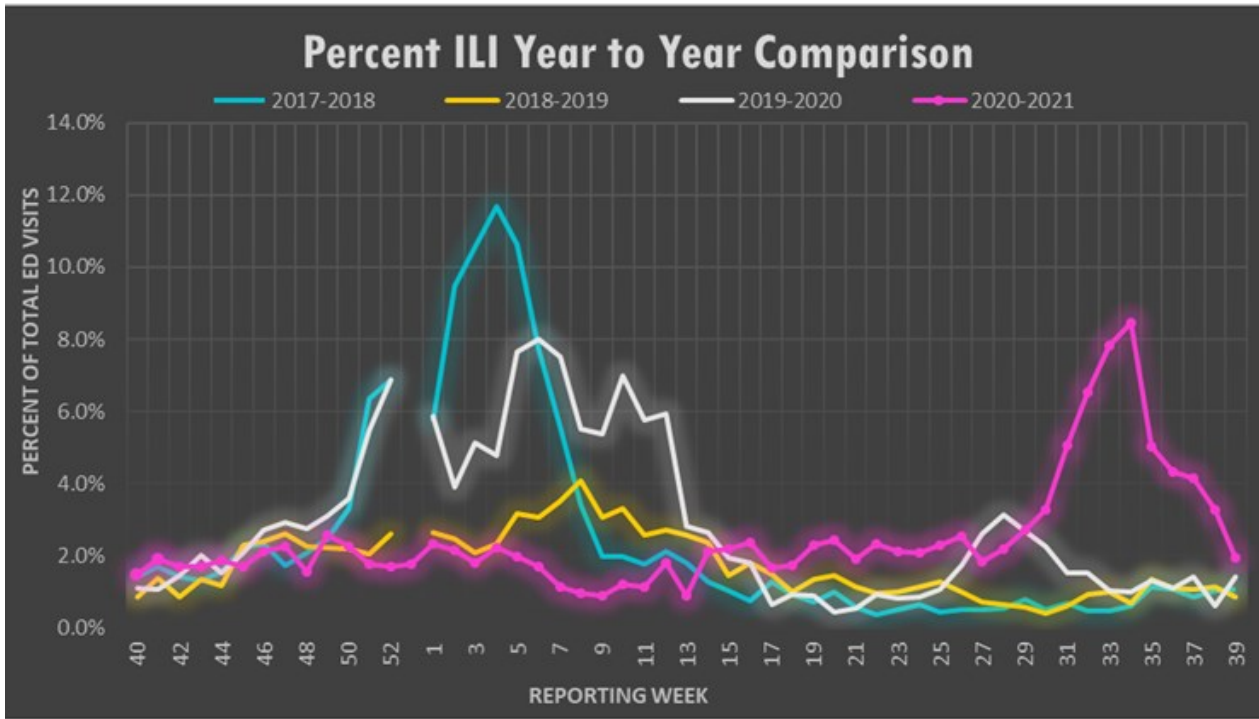


Figure 5: Annual comparison of the percent of all hospital ED visits due to ILI for Okaloosa County for the 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, and 2020-21 influenza seasons by week. Data source: ESSENCE

ANALYSIS: During Week 39, flu reporting partners and ESSENCE (a syndromic surveillance system) reported a decrease in ILI activity for Okaloosa County. The percentage of ILI ED visits in Okaloosa County decreased from 3.29% during Week 38 to 1.95% during Week 39. Flu partners reported no positive rapid influenza tests this week. Over the past three weeks, 11 out of 186 influenza specimens submitted to the state lab were positive (2 Influenza A unspecified, 9 Influenza B unspecified). There were no reported ILI admissions, outbreaks, or deaths reported this week. The percentage of total ILI ED visits for Week 39 is higher than that of Week 39 last year.

Note: Other respiratory syndromes can be represented by increased ILI case numbers. Data Source: ESSENCE

% ILI by Age Group Week 39, 2021

| Age Range | ILI Visits | Total ED Visits | % Total ILI Visits |
|-----------|------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 0-4 | 12 | 158 | 7.59% |
| 5-19 | 12 | 271 | 4.43% |
| 20-34 | 9 | 493 | 1.83% |
| 35-54 | 5 | 553 | 0.90% |
| 55-74 | 6 | 519 | 1.16% |
| 75+ | 0 | 259 | 0.00% |

Data Source: ESSENCE

% of Total ILI Visits by Facility Week 39, 2021

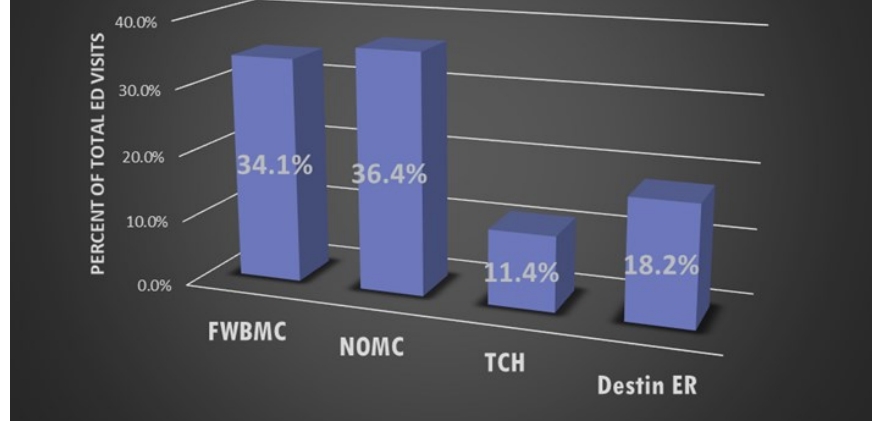


Figure 6: Hospital ED visits meeting ILI criteria stratified by facility. Percentages calculated based on total number of ILI ED visits. (n=44). Data source: ESSENCE



Syndromic Surveillance

Week 39: September 26 - October 2

Total ED Visits by Syndrome

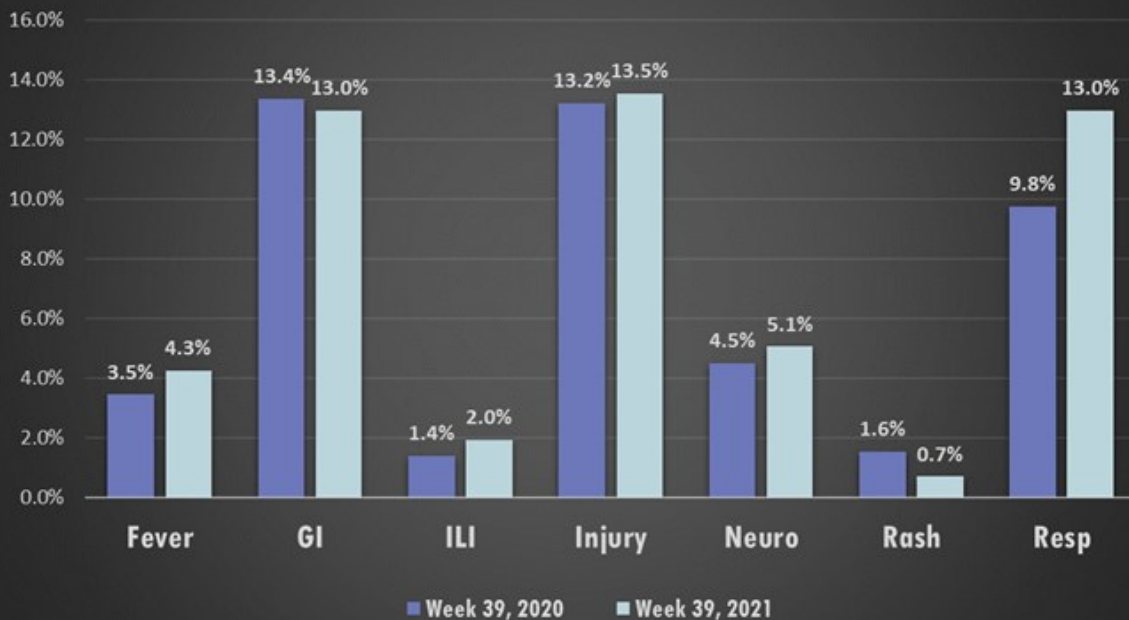
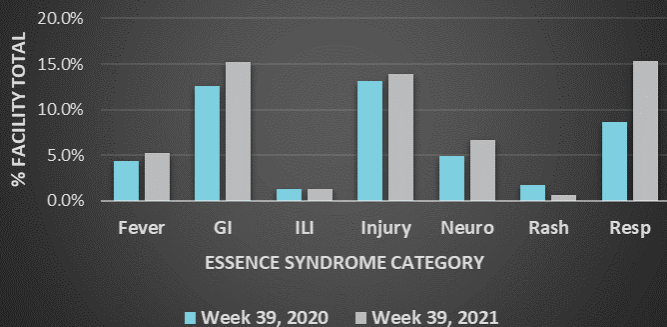


Figure 7: Hospital Emergency Department (ED) visits from 2021 Week 39 by select syndrome category. Percentages calculated based on total number of ED visits (n=2253). Some syndrome categories are not represented; therefore, represented percentages will not total 100%.

Data source: ESSENCE

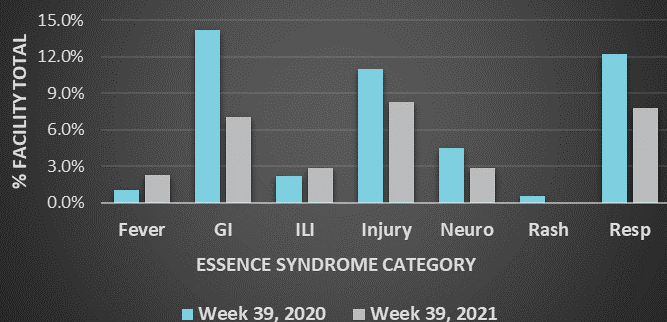
Fort Walton Beach Medical Center ED Presentations



Week 39—Fort Walton Beach Medical Center

| Age Range | Top Syndrome | Total ED Visits for Syndrome |
|-----------|--------------|------------------------------|
| 0-4 | RESP | 35 |
| 5-19 | INJURY | 29 |
| 20-34 | GI | 43 |
| 35-54 | GI, RESP | 38, 38 |
| 55-74 | RESP | 33 |
| 75+ | INJURY | 20 |

North Okaloosa Medical Center ED Presentations



Week 39—North Okaloosa Medical Center

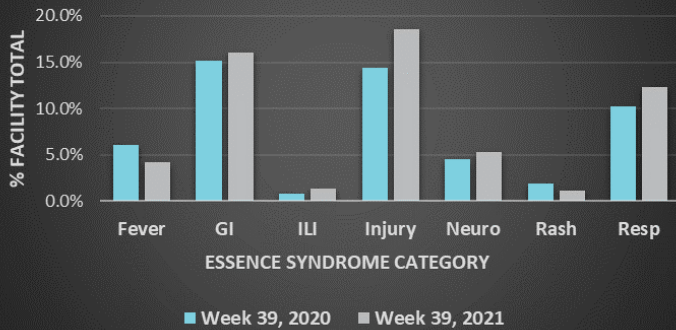
| Age Range | Top Syndrome | Total ED Visits for Syndrome |
|-----------|--------------|------------------------------|
| 0-4 | FEVER | 8 |
| 5-19 | INJURY | 8 |
| 20-34 | GI | 11 |
| 35-54 | INJURY | 13 |
| 55-74 | RESP | 19 |
| 75+ | GI | 5 |



Syndromic Surveillance

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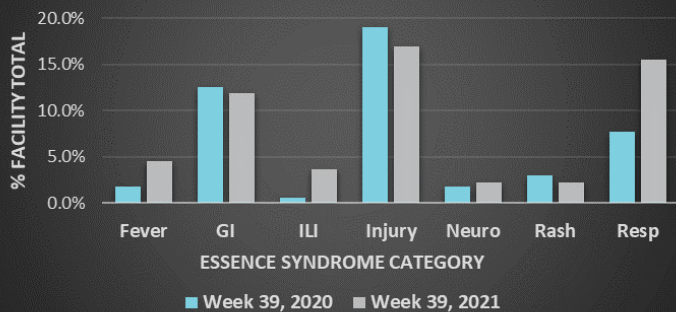
Twin Cities Hospital ED Presentations



Week 39—Twin Cities Hospital

| Age Range | Top Syndrome | Total ED Visits for Syndrome |
|-----------|--------------|------------------------------|
| 0-4 | FEVER | 8 |
| 5-19 | INJURY | 8 |
| 20-34 | GI | 11 |
| 35-54 | INJURY | 13 |
| 55-74 | RESP | 19 |
| 75+ | GI | 5 |

DestinER ED Presentations



Week 39—DestinER

| Age Range | Top Syndrome | Total ED Visits for Syndrome |
|-----------|--------------|------------------------------|
| 0-4 | FEVER | 6 |
| 5-19 | RESP | 10 |
| 20-34 | RESP | 9 |
| 35-54 | INJURY | 12 |
| 55-74 | INJURY | 14 |
| 75+ | INJURY | 3 |

Week 39—Okaloosa County

| Age Group | Top Syndrome |
|-----------|--------------|
| 0-4 | FEVER, RESP |
| 5-19 | INJURY |
| 20-34 | GI |
| 35-54 | INJURY |
| 55-74 | INJURY |
| 75+ | INJURY |

Data Source: ESSENCE

